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A GREAT MASS CONVENTION, COMPOSED OF DELEGATES FROM FOURTEEN COUNTIES, Held at Ottumwa, Wapello County, Iowa, on the 13th February 1852, BY THE FRIENDS OF THE Lafayette and Missouri River Rail Road.

The Convention assembled in the Congregational Church, on the 13th inst., at 11 o'clock. A. M., when large and respectable delegations from 14 counties took their seats in the same. On motion of George Gillespy, Esq., Maj. JAMES RAMSEY, was called to the Chair, and W. H. Burrows, appointed Secretary.

On motion of Hon. Wm. Thompson, a committee of one from each county was appointed to report to this convention officers for its permanent organization.

Whereupon the following named gentlemen were appointed said committee:

Wm. F. Coulbough, of Des Moines, A. McKinney, of Henry, Mr. Clinton, of Jefferson, Geo. Gillespy, of Wapello, Mr. Hoffmeyer, of Monroe, Henry Allen, of Lucas, M. M. Crocker, of Keokuk, Mr. McMinn, of Mahaska, J. H. Boney, of Van Buren, Joshua Marshall, of Louisa, Mr. Vincent, of Marion, and L. D. Winchester, of Polk.

On motion of J. C. Hall, Esq., all gentlemen present be invited to participate in the proceedings of the convention.

The committee appointed to report the names of gentlemen to act as permanent officers of the convention, returned and reported the following:

Col. WM. H. WALLACE, President.

Five Presidents:

George Temple, of Des Moines County,
William Thompson, of Henry, "
David Anderson, of Monroe "
Uriah Biggs, of Wapello "
H. W. Eastman, of Mahaska "
M. M. Crocker, of Keokuk "
L. D. Winchester, of Polk "
J. H. Boney, of Van Buren "
Henry Allen, of Lucas "
John McMinn, of Mahaska "
Charles Nagus, of Jefferson "
Joshua Marshall, of Louisa "
John W. Ellis, of Davis "
John Vincent, of Marion "

Secretaries:

W. H. Burrows, of Wapello "
J. H. McKinney, of Des Moines "

The report of the committee was unanimously concurred in.

On taking the chair, the President addressed the convention in a very able and eloquent manner.

On motion a committee of one from each county was appointed to draft Resolutions expressive of the sense of this convention.

Upon which the following named gentlemen were appointed said committee:

J. J. Childs, Wm. Thompson, Uriah Biggs, H. H. Tremble, Mr. Callahan, D. Anderson, F. W. Eastman, M. M. Crocker, L. D. Winchester, J. H. Boney, Henry Allen, John McMinn, C. Nagus, J. Marshall, J. W. Ellis, and J. Vincent.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

2 O'Clock, P. M.

The President took the Chair and called the Convention to order.

The Committee appointed to draft resolutions came in and through their chairman J. J. Childs, Esq., reported the following preamble and resolutions:

The citizens of Wapello, Jefferson, Henry, Van Buren, Davis, Des Moines, Monroe, Mahaska, Keokuk, Polk, Lucas, Mills, and Louisa Counties of the State of Iowa, assembled in Convention at Ottumwa, on the 13th day of February, 1852, for the purpose of advocating and bringing to an early consummation the project of a Railroad from the city of Burlington on the Mississippi to the mouth of the State on the Missouri—while said road will form an extension of a road from Lafayette, Ind., by way of Peoria, Ill., to the Mississippi river opposite Burlington—we present the following resolutions as expressive of our views and sentiments upon the subject which has convened us:

1. Resolved, That this convention regard the Railroad from Lafayette to the Western Ocean, as Congress, to be a great National enterprise, embracing in its beneficial effects the interests of a large majority of the people of this Union—that it is, but the consummation of a policy long and implicitly pledged by the National Legislature, to give to the people of the North and growing West a great National high-way, passing through the interior of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa to the border of the Indian Territory, west of the Missouri river—that for facility of construction, as well as for directness of course, it equals any road in the United States of equal length—that it passes through a country more generally inland and remote from other facilities of transportation than any other, and that it will create facilities for commerce where they are most needed and accommodate a people who have heretofore received the least benefits from the manifestations of Congress.

2. Resolved, That the proposed road from Lafayette to the Missouri river has the merit of being the most central route through the States which it traverses—that it is pre-eminently entitled to national support as it furnishes the most direct communication now yet projected, to the mouth of the State, along the valley of which river runs the only practicable railroad route to the Pacific.

3. Resolved, That we regard the early construction of a Railroad connecting the Atlantic states with those springing up on the Pacific as a military and political as well as a commercial necessity, and as the contemplated road in connection with those already constructed, or in progress, will complete the line of Railroads entirely across the Atlantic States, it is in an extraordinary degree entitled to the aid of the general government in any mode which is constitutional and proper.

4. Resolved, That in so much as the roads connecting Indianapolis with St. Louis, Charleston, Norfolk, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York, are in the course of construction, with their completion rendered certain, and inasmuch as a road is partially constructed from Indianapolis to Lafayette, and also from Peoria to Burlington, we believe this route en-

titled to special favor as it will the most directly and at the earliest period connect the valley of the upper Missouri and the Yellow Stone, with the most fertile and wealthy portions of Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, with the great cities of the seaboard.

5. Resolved, That considering the present and the prospective population of Iowa, we regard the Burlington and Missouri river railroad as necessitating the largest portion of her outlays, as vital in developing the resources of the State, as essential to the early and successful settlement of the vast public domain in the interior of the State, and as furnishing an early and most direct communication with the Atlantic cities, and the commerce of the world. That we can most emphatically assert that upon the route of the "greatest good to the greatest number" this road of all the projected roads in the State of Iowa stands pre-eminently and without a rival.

6. Resolved, That in our efforts to construct through the southern interior of Iowa a Railroad which will accommodate 17,000 square miles of our State territory, upon which there was in 1852 a population of 112,000 souls we can be actuated by no narrow feelings of sectional jealousy, but we are holding our energies in a great work, which we know to be one of the first importance to our young and growing State.

7. Resolved, That when any plan of internal improvement is projected in our State, which is worthy to be accomplished by exerting in its behalf the political power and influence of this commonwealth, we claim the right to express our opinions in relation thereto, reserving the same right to others.

8. Resolved, That we are not aware that any particular section of the State has secured a legal pre-emption right to the location of a Railroad, which is to be constructed under the auspices of the General Government, and that we regard ourselves as having an undoubted right to secure our own interest without withholding the permission of any self-constituted directors of State policy or guardians of State property.

9. Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States be requested to exert all their energies and influence to secure the passage of the bill granting land for the construction of the road from La Fayette to the Missouri river.

10. Resolved, That even without a connection with Indianapolis, via La Fayette, we regard the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad as indispensable to the best populated and most fertile portion of our State, inasmuch as it will afford the only outlet for our productions to the Mississippi river, and connect us by way of the Burlington and Peoria, and Central Illinois, and Military Trunk roads, with the Lakes of the North, and the railroads terminating at New York and London.

11. Resolved, That while our limited resources and the infancy of our State settle us in the aid of the General Government in constructing through Iowa a communication of a great national highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, we still pledge ourselves even if this aid be withheld, to secure its completion by our own efforts and resources, at the earliest possible day.

Pending the question of the adoption of the resolutions, H. W. Starr, Esq., of Burlington, being loudly called for came forward to the stand and addressed the convention in his usual eloquent and highly interesting style, which was received with enthusiastic applause.

J. C. Hall, Esq., next took the stand and made a strong and convincing speech, introducing statistics that were highly interesting, all of which were received with great satisfaction by the convention.

Hon. Wm. Thompson being called for from all parts of the house, came forward and delivered a most excellent speech, which the audience fully appreciated.

On motion the convention adjourned until 6 1/2 o'clock, P. M.

6 1/2 O'Clock, P. M.

The convention met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the President. Communications were read from Hon. Chas. Mason and J. W. Woods, Esq., of Burlington, and W. C. Clarke, Esq., of Monroe county.

On motion said communications were ordered to be printed.

Messrs. Eastman and Harbour, of Mahaska, J. J. Childs, of Des Moines, C. Nagus, of Jefferson, Monroe, Henry Allen, W. Lucas, Alexander, of Van Buren, L. D. Winchester, of Polk, being severally called upon addressed the convention in brief, appropriate and interesting speeches, all of which were well received by the convention.

The question on the adoption of the resolutions being now put was unanimously carried in the affirmative.

On motion it was ordered, that the Secretaries be instructed to forward a copy of the proceedings of this convention, to each and every member of Congress.

On motion of J. C. Hall, Esq.,

Resolved, That the people along the route of the Burlington and Missouri River Rail Road, be requested to hold county and neighborhood meetings and pass resolutions, sign memorials, publish their proceedings and forward the same to our representatives in Congress.

On motion,

Resolved, That all the newspapers in the State publish the proceedings of this Convention.

On motion,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to the officers thereof for the able manner in which they have performed their several duties.

On motion,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to the citizens of Ottumwa for the courteous and hospitable manner in which the delegates from abroad have been received and entertained by them.

On motion the Convention adjourned sine die.

WM. H. WALLACE, President.

W. H. Burrows, } Secretaries.
J. H. McKinney, }